GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6383
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
DISTORTED MAPS OF INDIA
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing machinery to scrutinise the country`s territorial maps brought out in the periodicals/publications both Indian and foreign and also included in the various books which are imported into the country with a view to judge its authentication or otherwise;

(b) the number of cases where the country`s map showing its territorial rights was found to be incorrect and unauthenticated including the names of the countries from where they were published during the last three years;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up by the Government with the concerned authorities; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) Specific instances of inaccurate depiction of India`s external boundaries are brought to the Government`s notice either by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad or by the Customs authorities.The Customs authorities come to know of the inaccuracies in the maps when they are approached for import of such books/publications/documents. Upon receiving a reference from Ministry of Home Affairs/Customs authorities, the Ministry of External Affairs examine the matter in consultation with Survey of India.In case of inaccurate depiction of the maps, suitable instructions are issued to Customs authorities to release the publications after affixing the legend `The external boundaries of India as depicted in the maps are neither correct nor authenticated`. Customs authorities also ban the import of publications in case of gross violations.

(b),(c)&(d) Eight such cases were reported during the last three years in respect of publications from U.K., UAE , U.S.A., Switzerland, Netherlands. In each such case, the Ministry of External Affairs asked the concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad to take up the issue of distortions with the concerned authorities and to impress upon them not to repeat these distortions/inaccuracies in future publications.